



Suggestions for Success

Keep a folder or briefcase where you can store all the important papers concerning your case.

It is very important to keep all of your appointments and, if ever you cannot keep an appointment, to call ahead of time to cancel.

Talk about ways you can be more involved in your child's life. Ask if you and the foster parent can build a working relationship.

Know what your strengths are as well as your limitations.

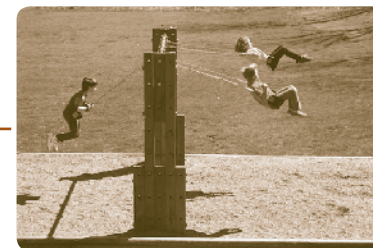
Always keep your child's best interest at heart, and remember to look at the situation from your child's point of view.

What are Parent Partners?

If you're reading this, then you're probably involved with the child welfare system. You may be feeling scared and confused. Maybe you're angry. You are definitely wondering, "What's next?" "Who can help me?" "Who understands what I'm going through?"

We know what it's like because it also happened to us. We are parents whose children were removed from our care due to allegations of abuse or neglect. We are parents who have worked hard to regain the custody of our children. We are parents who understand what it takes to get through these difficult times. We are Parent Partners.

We've been where you are right now—looking at a dependency petition with allegations that put you in the worst light. We've appeared in front of a judge and found out that our children were not coming home. However, today our kids are home.



How we help

We now serve as Parent Partners for people just like you who are entering the child welfare system.

As Parent Partners we can help give you information, support and guidance as you chart your course through the system.

We also serve as parent leaders by participating in various child welfare workgroups, meetings and committees, to act as the "parents' voice" for all families involved with the child welfare system.

We meet families at the courthouse and introduce ourselves. Families decide if they are interested in having a Parent Partner. Your participation is completely voluntary. Families are also invited to attend upcoming "Here's the Deal" sessions that offer support and education regarding the dependency process. Ask a Parent Partner for more information.

Here's what we can do for you

- Help you understand the juvenile court system and attend court hearings with you
- Help you learn how to have a good meeting with your social worker and attend meetings with you and your social worker
- Share "success" tips that have helped other parents
- Inform you of your rights as a parent in the child welfare system
- Help you problem solve difficult situations
- Be a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on
- Encourage you when you are feeling discouraged



Parent Partners

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**We help families get
through the child
welfare system**